

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph spanning page 7, line 14 – page 8, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

Returning to the illustrative lamp 1 of the Figure ~~[[1]]~~, the leads 7, 9 are connected to pin-shaped contacts 13 of their respective bases 12 fixed at opposite ends of the lamp 1. The discharge-sustaining filling includes an inert gas such as argon, or a mixture of argon and other gases, at a low pressure in combination with a small quantity of mercury to sustain an arc discharge during lamp operation. The inner surface 15 of the outer envelope 3 is provided with an undercoat 16 of aluminum oxide (for example, Aluminum Oxide C available commercially from DeGussa or Baikalex CR3- from Baikowski Chemie) as a non-fluorescent material coated with a contiguous layer of an alkaline earth oxide mixture, formed by thermal decomposition of the appropriate precursor materials. This alkaline earth oxide represents from about 1 to about 3 wt.% of oxide based on the weight of the aluminum oxide as getter material to remove contaminants from the lamp. A phosphor coating 17 is disposed over the undercoat 16. Both coatings extend the full length of the bulb, completely circumferentially around the bulb inner wall.